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Partly cloudy & showers 82°/69° See 10B

Miami Herald

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

ALEXIA FODERE For The Miami Herald

Milagros Giménez in the Miami Women's Circle with women discussing their experiences with sexual assault, harassment and violence.

#MeToo campaign triggers horrid memories for Miami women

The raft of testimony about sexual harassment and abuse that flooded social and mainstream media made these South Florida women recall their own traumatic experiences, an issue that Golden Globe honoree Oprah Winfrey brought to the forefront again during a speech earlier this week.

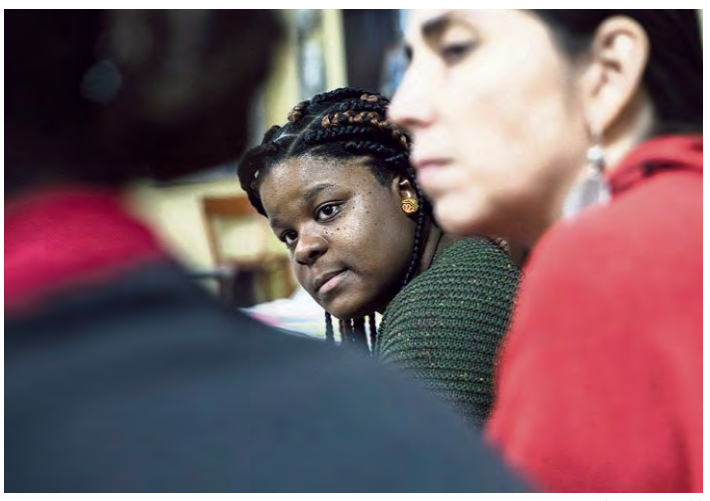
BY BRENDA MEDINA
bmedina@miamiherald.com

In an old warehouse-turned-office in northwestern Miami, a powerful but painful conversation by a group of women began.

Sitting on metal folding chairs around an improvised altar covered with a yellow sheet and a lighted candle at its center, 16 women shared their intimate stories of sexual harassment and abuse.

They were not wealthy or famous celebrities like Angelina Jolie, Taylor Swift or Salma Hayek. Their accused abusers were not powerful men like Harvey Weinstein. Those present at this gathering were everyday Miami women, minorities and immigrants. They clean hotels and homes. They serve as nannies and waitresses. They help care for the sick

SEE #METOO, 2A



ALEXIA FODERE Para el Nuevo Herald

Jasmeen Rogers participates in the discussion of sexual harassment and assault as part of a Miami Women's Circle meeting recently.

CUBA

Warning about travel to Cuba softened by State

The State Department updated its travel warning for Cuba, based on a new system announced Wednesday.

BY NORA GÁMEZ TORRES
ngameztorres@elnuevoherald.com

The U.S. State Department has changed its travel alert system and now recommends American citizens "reconsider" visiting Cuba. It had previously issued a warning advising Americans not to travel to the island.

"As we were putting all this together, we did a very careful assessment. We talked to all of our experts, and this is where we came out on Cuba," Michelle Bernier-Toth, acting deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizen Services, said in a teleconference on Wednesday.

On Sept. 29, the State Department recommended that Americans not travel to Cuba because they could risk becoming victims of mysterious attacks such as those suffered by at least 24 diplomats and their relatives stationed in Havana. The United States also ordered the evacuation of most of its employees at its embassy in the Cuban capital.

"Because our personnel's safety is at risk, and we are unable to identify the source of the attacks, we believe U.S. citizens may also be at risk. Attacks have occurred in U.S. diplomatic residences and at Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana," says the new warning.

According to Bernier-Toth, the new classification is not due to a change in the situation on the island but the

SEE CUBA, 2A

IMMIGRATION

Federal agents raid 7-Eleven stores in nationwide sweep

Seven 7-11 stores in Southeast Florida were part of a nationwide raid that saw U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents show up at 98 stores and make 21 arrests.

BY NICK MIROFF
The Washington Post

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents blitzed dozens of 7-Eleven stores before dawn Wednesday, including seven in Southeast Florida, to interview employees and deliver audit notifications, carrying out what the agency said was the largest operation targeting an employer since President Donald Trump took office.

ICE said its agents showed up at 98 stores and made 21 arrests, describing the operation as a warning to other companies who may have unauthorized workers on their payroll. The Southeast Florida stores were located in Miami Beach, Homestead, Davie, Fort Lauderdale, Haverhill in Palm Beach County and two in Vero Beach, said Nestor Yglesias, a spokesman for ICE's Miami office. There were no arrests in the seven Southeast Florida

SEE 7-ELEVEN, 6A

SCOTT OLSON Getty Images

A pedestrian walks past a 7-Eleven store in Chicago.

LOCAL NEWS

FLORIDA LEADS IN DROWNINGS

The USA Swimming Foundation reports that Florida was the site of more youth drownings than any other state. **3A**

BUSINESS

HIGH-SPEED RAIL FARES REVEALED

When the Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach train starts rolling on Saturday, riders will pay $10-$15 per leg. **8A**

TROPICAL LIFE

MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Women directors, music will be celebrated when the Miami Jewish Film Festival unspools this week. **1C**

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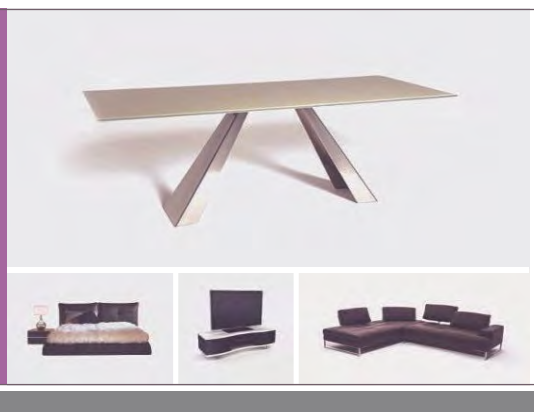

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